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BREEZE HILL NEWS

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ACIDANTHERA BICOLOR

Looking Ahead at Breeze Hill

BREEZE HILL GARDENS attempt to record in the black-and-white of the photograph, and also in careful color sketches (far more accurate than "color photographs"), the forms and the hues illustrating its rapidly changing plant collection. To Breeze Hill comes continually much that is worth while for making better gardens. The new roses from all the world; such herbaceous plants as promise real advance; the All-America flower seed trials; the best Holland can do in tulips, narcissi, and the like, provide each year a changing feast of floral beauty to observe and to record.

BREEZE HILL News is the record, the "ledger," of this great collection. It has required, sometimes, a half-dozen trained photographers and colorists on one spring day. Amateurs and tradesmen, who provide some of these things to be tried, visit Breeze Hill constantly, and the public is invited, under mild restrictions. Scores of garden clubs register in the "Rose Arbor" each year.

BUT BREEZE HILL works with and fits into the Mount Pleasant Press, where are stored the photographic, color, and library collections made in forty years of garden study, maintained primarily to supplement the business of writing, illustrating and printing horticultural books and catalogues.

AN EXAMPLE of the capacity involved is the monumental and unique "Roses of the World in Color," produced entirely within the facilities of the Mount Pleasant Press, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, and presenting in color 266 current rose varieties, with black-and-white picture or mention of 300 more. (This volume was produced from the first word of the copy to the finished printed sheets, between August 3 and November 12, 1936—a feat possible only with enthusiasm, training, and equipment.)

PUBLISHED without expense to anyone who gets it, and similarly without obligation, BREEZE HILL News tries to honestly and accurately report in words and picture the better garden things. Probably the only place on earth where a plant can be followed from the seed or cutting to the finished printed picture and word, it interests those who are disposed to take advantage of the facilities and capabilities of the Mount Pleasant Press in the production of horticultural literature.

For 1937 a wide range of investigation interests both Gardens and Press. We want to show what we can get and do that will better horticultural merchandising.

We hope also to further extend our lantern-slide and transparency service. We want to be asked to do more, by those who can intelligently inform us. Our reports are frank, fair, and helpful, with no strings attached to them.

Address, always, J. Horace McFarland Company, Mount Pleasant Press, Harrisburg, Pa. (Do not write directly to Breeze Hill Gardens.)

J. H. McF.



Zinnia linearis. (See page 12)

BREEZE HILL NEWS

Chrysanthemums

THE year 1936 was not good for Chrysanthemums. Old plants entered the year under unusually adverse conditions. There was not only excessive cold but plenty of ice to smother them in the nearly level beds; then followed a dry spell in spring before newly set plants could get their roots down, and another long drought during the summer and fall. There was a fair amount of bloom, but the quality was poor and the flowers did not last, especially when cut; the lack of moisture had caused the stems to harden and become so woody that they could not take up moisture and the lower foliage dried up. In fact, on a good many plants not only the lower leaves but the foliage of the entire plant dried up.

Although there are some beautiful flowers to be found among the named Hardy Chrysanthemums, we should not overlook the Species, which to this writer are just about the most desirable of all the family.

Ignoring Pyrethrums, Shasta Daisies, and all the other Chrysanthemums which are grown in gardens under names of their own, the first of the species to bloom at Breeze Hill was *C. morifolium*, a native of China, which opens its lovely little pink flowers about the middle of September, these lasting for two to three weeks. The plants are rather low, very branched, with tiny fern-like foliage, and although hardly over a foot tall, have a spread of two to three feet. Flowers are single, less than an inch in diameter, and literally cover the airy plants. The sprays of bloom make graceful cut-flowers.

Blooming about a week later than *C. morifolium* is the lovely *C. indicum*, a plant of which in full bloom is one of the daintiest things in the garden. Indicum plants are about three feet tall, and as broad, branching so freely that a plant at bloom-time is almost round. The flowers are tiny, single-rayed daisies, from three-eighths to one-half inch in diameter;

the color is clear light yellow, and the cushion, which occupies about two-thirds of the flower, is a somewhat deeper shade of yellow. The blooms are so numerous that they hide the plant in gold for many days. This lovely and by no means common plant is desirable in every way; there is nothing just like it.

The writer has been searching for the true *C. indicum* for the past ten years. It was only this past season that, through the kindness of the Federal plant introducer, B. Y. Morrison, plants were secured from the Government. Probably the Bureau of Plant Introduction has the only true *C. indicum* in this country.

There is quite a possibility that *C. morifolium* and *C. indicum* are the ancestors of all the garden and florist Chrysanthemums of today. Both are hardy, at least this far north.

Mr. Morrison states that both *C. indicum* and *C. morifolium* have gone through twenty degrees below zero at Bell, Md., with no more loss than other garden mums.

Two other species we like at Breeze Hill are *C. arcticum* and *C. coreanum*. The former makes a tight, low mat of lovely foliage, bearing large white daisies on eight- to ten-inch stems early in October, and continues for a long time. *C. coreanum*, the Korean Daisy, blooms with *Arcticum*, and has flowers somewhat similar which usually take on a pinkish tint with age. The plants are much stronger, the Korean flowers being two and one-half to three feet in the air. Both of these varieties are reliably hardy and both have good foliage.

Although the Chrysanthemum planting at Breeze Hill is composed principally of the new varieties received each year for test, we do, of course, retain a few of the older varieties because they are reliable and we like them.

Early Bronze and Jewel, two of the finest small Pompons; the two Hattons for quantity of attractive bloom; Amelia for its mounds of early flowers; the lovely Jane Saunders for its richly colored flowers in November; and the old Nellie Kleris whose flowers have the aroma of black walnuts, are a few to be found scattered here and there, brightening spots in the fall border, or furnishing cut-flowers for the office without bothering the novelties under test.

THE MUMS UNDER TEST

The following notes cover only varieties here for testing in 1936.

From the Texas Nursery Company came a set of four varieties, Azaleamum, Cameo Queen; Azaleamum, Bronze Beauty; Azaleamum, Magic White; and Azaleamum, Royal Red. The term Azaleamum, as we understand it, is simply one of the many names for the old Amelia, other aliases being Pink Cushion and Magic Mum.

Cameo Queen seemed to us to be simply Amelia, producing low, spreading mounds covered with pink flowers which turn white, the bloom appearing very early in September.

Bronze Beauty, which is a sport, or seedling, of the above is like its parent in plant and shape of flower but the color is buff, which ages pink. It is quite pleasing at first and will be useful.

Magic White, another sport or seedling, bloomed at the same time on a similar plant, and we checked it as topnotch, as the flowers were pure white, and there were myriads of them.

The last of the set, Royal Red, seems to be something else, for while it has a low, bushy plant with very small, dark green foliage, it did not bloom until October 25, and the flowers are much smaller, being less than an inch in diameter. The color is brilliant garnet with a bright yellow center. Although the temperature went to twenty-one degrees the night after the first flowers opened, the freeze seemed to do little harm, for the plants continued putting out new flowers for weeks. In spite of many nights with temperatures in the twenties, the flowers kept bright all during November. As it made a brilliant spot long after all other flowers had frozen, we are very keen about Azaleamum, Royal Red, at Breeze Hill. It is the Chrysanthemum "find" of the season.

Astrid, October 5, a natural hybrid between *C. arcticum* and some hardy garden variety, which was found in the Styers nursery a few years ago, is really fine. Its three-inch,

single flowers are a warm shade of amber-pink. The plants are hardy and bloom satisfactorily.

Among Elmer Smith's novelties we were much impressed by White Gull, whose twelve-inch, compact plants were covered with one- to one-and-one-fourth-inch, pure white pompons soon after September 15. We have an idea this may be a descendant of Amelia, as the foliage is much like that variety. White Gull was very free, lasted a long time, and is probably a fine rockery subject.

In Conard-Pyle's novelties we found Topsy to have large, shaggy flowers of the deepest, richest yellow we have seen in Chrysanthemums. It bloomed October 1.

Another yellow of brighter coloring was Manitou, blooming October 5, with three-and-one-half-inch flowers opening flat and giving off the scent of the wild May-apple or mandrake.

Nokomis, on October 10, produced some nice incurved, Decorative flowers over three inches in diameter, of bright lavender, with a silvery reverse; it was "different."

Mary Jane, blooming October 10, with four-inch lilac-pink flowers on a thirty-inch branching plant, was interesting to look at and gave out a pleasing fragrance.

We are interested in Hiawatha because of its unique bronzy buff color. (Conard-Pyle Company call it cinnamon.) The three-inch flowers were good.

The last of this group, Minnehaha, is a gem; the two-foot plants carried masses of one and one-half-inch flat garnet pompons which held their rich coloring well. It began blooming October 20 and lasted until frozen.

THE KOREAN HYBRIDS

This brings us to the most important of today's garden Chrysanthemums—the hybrids of *C. coreana* originated by Alexander Cumming, Jr., at Bristol, Conn. As this strain has been widely distributed and is quite well known, we confine our comments to this year's novelties, including the varieties to be distributed in 1937.

Of the single varieties from Bristol, Pink Lustre appeared important. The three-inch flowers with four rows of petals

began to open during the first week in October; the color was a lovely shade of clean pink, and there was a mixed fragrance. The eighteen-inch plants bloomed liberally.

Somewhat larger, Nancy Copeland's three-and-one-half-inch flowers, made up of three or four rows of petals, were a brilliant light red, almost scarlet—a striking color for Chrysanthemums. The growth was very compact, with stiff canes.

The last of this group, Agnes Selkirk Clark, is a mixture, or blend of bronzy pink, apricot, and salmon in three-inch single flowers on two-foot plants. This bloomed just after October 1, and was fine.

We were intrigued by a homeless waif, half-way between a Single and a Pompon, which Mr. Cumming has named Urchin. It bloomed early in October, the one-and-one-half-inch flowers starting off like a Pompon, but soon showing their center cushions. The petals were bright raspberry, with gold tips—a really attractive combination. The only complaint was the sparseness of the foliage on the two-foot plants. We understand that this variety has Pyrethrum blood in its veins, and that it will be the first Pyrethrum hybrid to be introduced. It is a different and likeable little Mum and may become popular.

There were a number of double Koreans under test in 1936, and we understand the following have been selected to follow Romany and Indian Summer, which introduced this new class last spring.

Of these, Ember, blooming October 20, was a really pleasing flower of burnt-orange, some three inches in diameter with incurved petals showing on three-foot plants, upright and fairly close. King Midas, a large, loose flower of deep yellow, had bronzy tints at times, especially after a few cold nights. It made two-foot bushy plants with good foliage. We marked it good. The last of this set, The Moor, was a deep port-wine color, some three inches in diameter, of a rather shaggy make-up. The two-foot plants would be more attractive if they had more foliage.

There were a dozen of the Dreer Koreans under test, most of which started to bloom October 1, although a couple



CHRYSANTHEMUM — KING MIDAS

BREEZE HILL NEWS



CHRYSANTHEMUM — EMBER

JANUARY · 1937

began in September. The finest of the lot was Princess, a large, fluffy white, with three rows of petals. This flower opened September 25 in pale lemon but soon turned pure white, when it was outstandingly beautiful.

Somewhat similar but inferior was Niobe, opening October 1. There is no need of both, and Princess is better. Others blooming October 1 were Fortuna, with shaggy three-inch, blood-red flowers which curl and twist like a Japanese Mum. This was very nice. Hestia, with three-inch flowers, the white petals tipped lilac-pink, attracted attention, as did its strong varnish odor. It is distinct.

Nysa, with larger flowers ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inch) was checked as rose, a shade that is not over-crowded. A week later Clio bloomed with somewhat smaller flowers of much the same color.

Vesta's bronzy buff flowers were some three inches across as produced on two-foot branching plants. These were all of the single type, with two or three rows of petals.

Gardeners now know that they can raise pretty fine Chrysanthemums from a package of seed, and were it not for the work Alexander Cumming is doing with the Chrysanthemum family, we might well wonder just what its future as a nursery item would be. Of course, we will always want varieties of certain coloring, size, shape, etc., but when one can get from a small package of seed, sown early indoors, enough Chrysanthemums for the average garden, blooming the same season, it would seem that nature is kind to the gardener.

But we have seen considerable of Mr. Cumming's genius and can expect some thrilling flowers from his carefully planned work. The Korean Hybrids are very new; the first Pyrethrum hybrid goes out this spring, and we know of several other "impossible" hybrids in the works. This clever plantsman is determined to cross *C. hortorum* with everything that can be touched with his camel's-hair brush.—R. M. H.

There will be a number of new Narcissus and quite a few Dutch Iris blooming for the first time at Breeze Hill this spring.

Acidanthera bicolor

Although we have photographs of this Abyssinian Irid taken twenty years ago, it has never been widely distributed in this country, and is still rather scarce.

This is unfortunate, for it is one of the loveliest of the African bulbous plants. It is good to note that interest in it is being revived, and that bulbs are again obtainable.

Our bulbs, or as they should be called corms, were planted in the rock-garden two to three inches deep, in a mixture of loam, peat moss, and sand, after frosts were over and the ground had warmed up a little. They bloomed in August, lasting for four to five weeks. Our notes were as follows: Two feet high, with narrow lanceolate foliage, the flower stem branching and carrying from three to ten flowers. The bloom is a three-inch tube opening to a six-petaled creamy white flower three inches in diameter at the mouth. The top petal stands out like an overhanging roof, the next two petals holding stiffly at right angles. There is quite a space between these and the three lower petals which are close together. Each petal, except the top one, shows a large chocolate-brown spear head near the base. The flowers are highly scented with a delightful, lasting fragrance, which has been said to resemble that of the tuberose.

Harold Ross, Bostonian lover of choice things horticultural, and moulder of apt phrases, expresses himself regarding this plant thus:

"Of Abyssinian origin, this exotic flower makes one stop and wonder if perhaps King Solomon did not send these fragrant orchid-like blooms to his dusky enamorata!"

Known at one time as *Gladiolus Murieloe*, it requires much the same culture as the "Glad." Lift the corms before cold weather, so they may be stored in a dry place in a temperature a little higher than that required for Glads. It is best to delay planting in the spring until the ground gets warm.—R. M. H.

Zinnia linearis

One of the most interesting of the All-America Seed Trials at Breeze Hill in 1936 was the little *Zinnia linearis*, entered by the Bodger Seed Co. and pictured on page 2.

When John Bodger visited Breeze Hill in the fall, he told us how he found this *Zinnia* in Australia in the spring of 1934. It seems that the hotel where he stopped in Sydney adjoined the Botanic Gardens, and his room on the thirteenth floor gave him a fine view of the gardens. The first morning there, while taking a pre-breakfast look out the window, his roving gaze was stopped by a solid bed of bright yellow, so unusual that no time was lost in getting to it. Unfortunately, there was very little information to be had, beyond the name, and supposing that it was a native antipodean, he arranged for seed, which in due course arrived in California. The new plant was so good in the Bodger fields in 1935 that a seed supply was worked up for 1937 introduction.

Ironically, the genus *Zinnia* is wholly American, and, according to Dr. Bailey, *Z. linearis* is a native of Mexico. Yet, to get into gardens in the United States but a few miles away from its native source, it had to travel half way around the earth!

At Breeze Hill, plants from seed sown under glass May 8, and transplanted to the garden when conditions were right, were in full bloom the first week in July, and these plants continued to be a mass of gold until late September. They are very un-*Zinnia* like—if one thinks of the modern *Zinnia*. *Linearis* makes little compact mounds, some eight inches tall and probably a foot through, with very narrow foliage. The flowers, with a single row of petals, are one and one-fourth inches in diameter; at first each golden orange petal carried a greenish stripe down the center and a greenish tip, but as the flower developed, the green turned to light yellow, making a pleasing contrast with the orange of the outer

portions. The quarter-inch orange center cushion turned dark as the flower developed, adding to the attractiveness of the bloom.

Although we grew it in a solid row, gardeners will find many uses for this fine plant once they see it. It is a real find, and a definite credit to the eagle eye of John Bodger.
—R. M. H.

An Aster or Two

About the finest Michaelmas Daisy we have seen, and certainly the best of the novelties planted last spring, was Burbank's Charming.

The tree-shaped, single-stemmed plants, six feet high, with wide-spread, ascending branches from the ground up, had a diameter of three and one-half to four feet near the ground, gradually tapering to a point at the top. It was a real plant. Bloom started in late September and covered the plant from top to bottom for weeks. The three-fourths-inch truly single flowers are described as rosy white, but our notes say they were shell-pink, remaining clean and fresh for a long time.

Pink Nymph had somewhat similar growth, but was only five feet high, with one and one-half-foot lower branches, widely spaced. The one-inch flowers, with a double row of ray petals, were a good shade of pink and commenced to appear about September 15.

There just doesn't seem to be any white Aster to compare with Mt. Everest. The four-foot plants, branching freely, with a real snowstorm of one and one-half-inch, pure white, single flowers are surely fine. That there is a clean yellow center to each flower doesn't spoil the picture one bit. Still going down in height, we noted that Little Boy Blue was scarcely two and one-half feet tall but well covered with one-inch, deep lavender-blue flowers, with several rows of petals, almost enough to be called double. It bloomed the first of September and was checked as quite worth while.

A companion, Little Pink Lady, with one and one-fourth-

inch single, pale pink flowers on a two and one-half-foot plant about September 5, was not impressive—the flowers were too scattered.

About the same height as these, but spreading out over more ground, is that fine Swiss introduction Aster Frikarti, Wonder of Staefa. The fragrant, pale violet-blue flowers, two and one-half to three inches across, are on good cutting stems. It blooms from midsummer until frost and is so good that it should be in every garden. Mons. Frikart originated three other colors of this Aster. We sincerely hope that someone will be able to get them into commerce in America.

The A. subcaeruleus variety, Wartburg Star, is a nice thing. In the rock-garden's poor soil the clumps of foliage were only two inches tall and four inches in diameter, but this bunch of bright green woolly foliage put up numerous six- to ten-inch stems, topped with one and one-half-inch lavender-blue, single flowers with attractive orange cushions. We liked Wartburg Star.

Another rock-garden subject, Gold Flake, is of different type, with fuzzy, ball-shaped heads made up of tiny, closely packed, five-petaled, greenish yellow stars, of which there were twelve to twenty in a loose umbel. The upright plants, with slender, alternate, hair-like foliage, came into bloom in late August and lasted well through September.

Of the new dwarf varieties, Niobe, eight inches tall and quite bushy, bloomed in late September, the little bushes being covered with one and one-fourth-inch pure white flowers with two rows of petals around a yellow cushion. We noted this as better than most of these dwarf Asters, which are good for a few days only—the bloom does not last long enough.—R. M. H.

In the Photographic Studio

A box of Roses came into the studio the other day for photographing, and it was really worth getting excited about. The contents were the new Italian Hybrid Tea, Rome Glory,

which had been brought to winter bloom by White Bros., at Medina, New York.

Rome Glory, originated by Aicardi, at San Remo, Italy, was discovered there by Dr. Nicolas, and is to be introduced by Jackson & Perkins Company. It is said to be a cross between Dame Edith Helen and Sensation. When we saw it at Newark last summer it looked like a big, double, red Hybrid Perpetual on a strong Hybrid Perpetual-like plant. But the "forced" flowers in December were five inches in diameter, of a cupped form when fully open, displaying an unusually attractive mass of golden stamens.

The color, to this writer, was a lustrous light cerise, with a glow, when first opening, which gave the idea that the color was scarlet. In fact, Dr. McFarland insisted it looked like a much refined poinsettia! As the flowers matured the color lightened and there was a hint of a silver tinge to the pale cerise coloring. The reverse color was a rather metallic cerise-red. Dissected, the bloom had 50 petals, and it gave forth a rich perfume. Although a large flower, there was something about the color of those winter blooms that recalled the once-popular Richmond.

Any cut-flower man can afford to keep his eyes very wide open for this different red rose that can shine and glow for Christmas.

Another cut-flower in to have its picture taken recently was the new Carnation, York Beauty, developed by Charles A. Schaeffer, of York, Pa. The beautifully formed flowers were three and one-half inches in diameter and of rose-pink color—pure and simple rose-pink, but entirely without the dullness usually associated with rose. There was an opalescent sheen on the petals which, when the flowers were held under artificial light, fairly sparkled as if they had been sprinkled with diamond dust. It was the most "alive" Carnation we have ever seen. The fragrance was as clove-like as could be wished. Dr. McFarland visited the Schaeffer greenhouses and found there that the calyxes do not split, so that the customer can really get full service from them. York Beauty is "all right."—R. M. H.



CHRYSANTHEMUM ASTRID